

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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JANUARY 2013

TEVET - SHEVAT

Rabbi's Message

On January 10, Beth Israel Sinai will be hosting a meeting of the Racine Interfaith Council. Representatives of various faith groups will give their perspectives on the theme of "social justice." What a timely discussion considering events that occurred on December 14 in Newtown, Connecticut.

At 9:30 EST, Adam Lanza, burst into Sandy Hook Elementary School, shooting an AK 47 and other firearms. In just nine minutes, 20 children no older than 8 years old and six of their teachers who were trying to protect them were massacred. Earlier that morning, Lanza had killed his mother. Later the gunman shot himself.

Surely one aspect of "social justice" would be to discuss what has become an increasingly pervasive "culture of violence" in American society. Our leaders must reconcile the notion of an

"individual right to bear arms" as stated in the Second Amendment in the US Constitution with the welfare of the entire community. I frankly doubt that the Founding Fathers had in mind AK47s and other weapons designed for war. To quote Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association (NRA), it is time for both gun advocates and opponents to sit down and have a rational discussion on the topic of gun violence in America.

No other country in the world possesses as many guns as the United States. According to one estimate, there are 89 guns for every 100 American citizens. The second most pervasive gun society is Yemen with 55 guns for every 100 citizens. Every democratic country in the world has stricter gun control laws than the US. For example, Israel, besieged by enemies, has issued only 1700 gun permits for private citizens. True, there are armed guards protecting schools--but they are posi-

tioned outside schools to prevent would be assassins from entering. No one in Israel would consider arming teachers in the classroom---as recently suggested by a Virginia congressman and the CEO of the NRA, Wayne LaPierre. In Japan, it is virtually impossible for a private citizen to acquire a firearm. Japan has the lowest murder rate in the world.

It should be noted that in both Israeli and Japanese culture, the rights of the community supersedes the rights of the individual. Also in Israel, with soldiers carrying their weapons in the street, there has never developed a national discussion of guns in Israeli society. Guns are merely accepted as an evil necessity of their security situation. Any American solution must not sacrifice the rights of the individual as enshrined in our Constitution.

In my opinion, any discussion on our growing "culture of violence" must (continued on page 2)

President's Message

It seems like we've said Happy New Year recently, so this is the second time and in a few weeks we can actually say it again. It will be Tu B'Shavat, the New Year of the trees!

It looks like a fun month ahead. The Rabbi will cele-

brate the 49th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah and sponsor the Kiddush on January 19. Definitely plan on joining us on that day!

The night before, on Friday January 18 at 6:00 PM, we'll have a Shabbat service and dinner. Don't miss it!

Be sure to plan to join us for a "Frutopia Kiddush" to cele-

brate Tu B'Shavat on Saturday January 26.

Keep in mind that the "Polish Hero Exhibit" is coming to the Racine Public Library next month.

Congratulations to Rabbi and Marcia. As of the 30th, they're grandparents again!

Shalom Y'all
Jeff

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**Shabbat Dinner
and Service
Friday, January 18, 2013
6:00PM**

**Polish Hero Exhibit
Begins
February 10, 2013
At
The Racine Public Library**

**Come and Enjoy
Tu B'Shavat services and a
"Frutopia Kiddush"
January 26, 2013
9:45AM**

Rabbi's Message Continued...

focus both on the elimination of certain types of weapons for private use (ie. AK47s and other types of assault weapons) and who will be eligible to obtain a gun permit. More thorough background checks and training in the use of firearms should be given before permits are issued. Perhaps, a review of gun laws in other countries like Great Britain, France, Israel and Japan, who have substantially lower rates of murders attributed to gun violence, would be a good place to start. Any rational discussion must include those who have suffered the loss of family members and friends. It must also include those law abiding gun owners and hunters. I have little doubt they many, like Senator Manchin, would agree that an assault weapon possessing a multi-round clip are not needed to protect ones' home or for recreational hunting.

In a political era of severe partisanship, will our government leaders be able to negotiate their differences on behalf of the "public good?" If discussions on the impending "fiscal cliff" are any indication, one has reason to be skeptical. How many more Columbines, Auroras, Tucsons, Clickmas, and Newtowns must be witnessed before action is taken? Why should firefighters, responding to a fire set by their murderer on Christmas Eve, be gunned down in the line of duty? The assassin, William Spengler, who had been convicted of killing his grandmother, should not have been legally able to acquire firearms.

One Newtown resident recently stated after the outpouring of national sympathy for their tragic loss, that "nine minutes of evil were replaced by infinite good will." Hopefully, that "goodwill" will extend to the halls of Congress, representatives of state and local governments and civic and religious leaders. We must ALL work to reduce violence in America

before it once again recedes from the focus of our national media---as it has done after every major American tragedy.

This month, on Shabbat morning January 26, we will be celebrating Tu B' Shevat, Jewish Arbor day. Please go to the website of the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and make a donation to plant a tree in Israel. This way you will contribute to making the "desert bloom" for us and future generations. Also, I look forward to seeing all of you on January 18 for our monthly Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner. As always, your attendance at Shabbat services will ensure that the light of nondenominational Judaism is never extinguished. Please invite your friends and relatives to participate in our unique form of worship.

See you in shul,
Rabbi Marty

Sisterhood

As this season of lights comes to a close and winter makes its entrance, the Sisterhood continues to provide all who attend services with a light lunch before the Torah study. Now that the weather is colder we'll be serving hot food from time to time to warm tummies while we feed our spirits. This is possible due to the generous contributions of our members and friends. A Sisterhood contribution or sponsoring a Kiddush are thoughtful ways to honor life cycle events, birthdays or anniversaries, or any occasion. To sponsor a Kiddush, call Rita and let her know the date, the occasion, and whether you prefer a meat or dairy meal. The suggested donation is \$54 for a meat meal and \$36 for a dairy meal. We'll take care of the shopping, cooking, and serving.

Many thanks to Leo and Felicia Vaytsman for sponsoring the Kiddush on December 8 in honor of their recent marriage. We also extend our thanks to an "Anonymus Angel" for the contribution of kosher grape juice these past weeks. All are welcome to help keep our kitchen stocked. Items such as lox, bagels, cream cheese, canned tuna fish, eggs, fresh fruit, juice, cookies, cakes, wine, paper plates, disposable spoons and forks, and other basics are always in demand. If you'd like to donate an item or two, just leave them in the kitchen. Please ensure any packaged items you bring in are marked kosher. Please contact Rita or Rabbi Adelberg if you have any questions.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen



General Support

Mary Vite
Eileen Schroeder
Joannie and Warren Williams
Joyce Placzkowski

In Memory of the Hulbert Family

Gertrude Hulbert

In Memory of Paula Shovers

Leah Shovers

In Memory of Sarah Woolf

Leah Shovers

In Happy Memory of their Marriage at Beth Israel Sinai 38 years ago!

Ina and Michael Levin

A Prayer Book In Honor of Felicia and Leo Vaytsman on their Marriage!

Glenn Gordon

To Support the Chanukah Celebration

Max Gordon
Lorraine and Victor Ganz
Rabbi and Marcia Adelberg
The Bloom Family

In Memory of Celia Westphall

Leah Shovers

Congratulations Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Rosen on your Marriage!

Vera Ruffalo

Congratulations to Felicia and Leo Vaystman on your Marriage!

Vera Ruffalo

A Prayer Book in Memory of Gwyneth Kahn

Max and Glenn Gordon

Yahrzeits		Week of January 18	
Week of December 28		Maurice Davis	19
Herman Levin	28	Sidney Glickstein	21
Sadie Kaufman	29	Hilda Popkoff	21
Harry Gordon	30	Ethel Shovers	21
Toby B. Gorsky	31	Dorothy Glickstein	22
Morris Mitler	31	George A. Lang	22
Irving Schulman	31	Hazel Watt	22
Bessie Levin	1	Phil Blitstein	23
Ben Mitler	2	Meyer Gottlieb	23
Solomon Reder	3	Fanny Kluk	23
Dan B. Levit	3	Idah Schwartz	24
		Sophie Shovers	24
Week of January 4		Week of January 25	
Don Gordon	4	Sgt. Leonard Hulbert	25
Marcia Grant	4	Ruth Grant Gordon	25
Rose Hulbert	4	Samuel G. Laufman	26
Nathan I. Silver	5	Tillie Sideman	26
Elaine Adelberg	6	Elizabeth Goldberg	27
Geraldine Shovers	6	Kathryn Raftenberg	28
Hyman Draft	6	Max Grust	29
Meyer Levin	7	Harold Tabaksman	29
David Gottlieb	8	Esther Gottlieb	30
Martha Kleffmann	8	Isadore Milch	30
Beverly Lichterman	8	Bertha Waisman	30
Philip D. Cohen	8	Joseph Popkoff	31
Minnie Goodman	9	David Shovers	31
Bertha Julian	9	Julius Lichterman	31
Ida Ruffalo	9	Oscar Shovers	31
David Schaefer	10		
Week of January 11		Week of February 1	
Edith Kronson	11	Eva Gorsky	1
Anna L. Marks	12	Manfred Oelsner	1
Dora Solomon	12	Edith Seft	1
Norman Richard Grant	13	Joseph Magner	5
Edward E. Rosenzweig	13	Zachary Dorman	6
Joseph I. Levin	14	Joseph L. Harris	6
Boroch Hirsh Sidran	14	Jane Kiselow	6
Julius Alperovitz	15	Gertrude Fishbain	6
Morris Wolf	16	Frank Shovers	6
Harris Domskey	17	George S. Cohen	6
		Eli Hulbert	7
		Mary Soref	7
		Rose Kaminal	7

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

January 4 - 4:13 PM
 January 11 - 4:20 PM
 January 18 - 4:28 PM
 January 25 - 4:37 PM
 February 1 - 4:46 PM



Cemetery Notes

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is a resting place for all Jews. **All.**

The cemetery is five acres located on the 600 block of Lathrop Avenue and is a well maintained, park-like setting.

Call Jim Barten at 262.412.8457

Hadassah

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making charitable contributions.

Thank you.
 Sarah Levin 886-9331
 Sidnee Nerad 551-0406

Cards \$5
 Shares \$10
 Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10
 Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18



Tu B'Shevat

Origin: Tu B'Shevat is a transliteration of 'the fifteenth of Shevat', the Hebrew date specified as the new year (Rosh Hashanah) for trees.

The Torah forbids Jews to eat the fruit of new trees for three years after they are planted. The fourth year's fruit was to be tithed to the Temple. Tu B'Shevat was counted as the birthday for all trees for tithing purposes: like the beginning of a fiscal year. It gradually gained religious significance, with a Kabbalistic fruit-eating ceremony (like the Passover seder) being introduced during the 1600s.

Custom: Jews eat plenty of fruit on Tu B'Shevat, particularly the kinds associated with Israel. The Torah praises seven 'fruits' in particular: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.

A short blessing is recited after eating any fruit. A special, longer blessing is recited for the fruits mentioned in the Torah. Tu B'Shevat is a celebration of continuity. After all, what says "I am here for you just as I was here for your fathers, and I will be here for your children just as I am here for you" like a tree. In some cases, it takes longer than one lifetime for a tree to come to "fruition."



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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*Join us for a Friday Shabbat Service and Dinner
on January 18, 2013 at 6:00 PM*

January 2013 Tevet - Shevat 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	4	5 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
6	7	8	9	10 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	11	12 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Chanukah 8th. Night
13	14	15	16	17 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	18 Shabbat Dinner and Service 6:00 PM	19 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Kiddush sponsored by Rabbi Adelberg on the 49th anniver- sary of his Bar Mitzvah!
20	21	22	23	24 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	25	26 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Tu B'Shvat "Frutopia Kiddush!"
27	28	29	30	31 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	1 Feb.	2 Shabbat Services 9:45AM